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INFORMATION
CONTACT:

Shane Jernigan
(202) 225-2701

Carson Announces COPS Grant to Muskogee County Sheriff

*Federal Funding to Assist Sheriff Pearson in Hiring Three
Deputies*

Washington, D.C. - Eastern Oklahoma Congressman Brad Carson (D-OK) announced today that Muskogee County Sheriff Charles Pearson's office has been awarded \$205,299 in federal funding to hire three additional deputies. The federal funding was made available by the Community Oriented Policing Service (COPS) program through the U.S. Justice Department.

"This federal funding comes at a very important time," Congressman Brad Carson commented. "Across Oklahoma, law enforcement agencies are pressed to fight the growing Methamphetamine epidemic while budget cuts have reduced the number of officers on our streets. I appreciate Sheriff Pearson's leadership in recognizing the federal government can be a partner in keeping our communities safe."

Sheriff Pearson commented that the three additional deputies would be put on road patrol across Muskogee County. Congressman Carson and Sheriff Pearson have worked together for over two years to secure this funding.

"The COPS program is a very beneficial to rural communities and law enforcement," Congressman Carson stated. "Many of Oklahoma's Sheriff Departments do not have the resources needed to effectively perform their jobs, and funding through the COPS program is critical in assisting our law enforcement officers."

Congressman Carson has been a strong advocate for law enforcement in the House of Representatives. He is a co-sponsor of legislation that would re-authorize the COPS program, while reducing bureaucratic red-tape. The Congressman is also the author of the Rural Safety and Law Enforcement Improvement Act.

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